

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

SEND in your orders for the ANNUAL. It will be ready to mail by the time your orders reach the office. The price is ten cents, or \$1.00 per dozen.

WE found it absolutely necessary to supply *Cheering Words* for December 5, from another house. Our schools will understand why they received a different paper last Sunday.

THE Sunday-school lessons for the first quarter of the year 1898 are taken from the gospel of Matthew and from a very interesting series of lessons. Order blanks have been mailed to all our schools and we hope to be favored with large orders.

ANY new subscriptions which you may have taken at one dollar before you received this paper will be received at that rate. Keep up the canvass. Because the price has gone back to \$1.50 is no reason why our efforts to secure the extra 500 should cease.

UP to date we have received about eighty replies to our question, "What is a Christian?" As soon as 100 are at hand the offer will close, the books announced from which the selection of the prize is to be made, and the answers to the question handed to the proper persons for examination.

IN this issue of the paper appears an important communication from the secretary of the Publication Board, Brother Cassel. It is addressed to the readers of the EVANGELIST and should be carefully read by all who have an interest in the cause of the Brethren church. Read it and act accordingly.

WITH the issuing of this number of the EVANGELIST the price goes back to \$1.50, as it was one year ago. The paper has been enlarged and otherwise improved and we believe the action of the Board will meet with general favor among all our people, especially those who want to see the cause of the Brethren church succeed. New subscribers will of course get the paper from now to the end of next year for \$1.50. We trust there will be a hearty and liberal response to the call of the secretary.

IN answer to some inquiries intended to gather information, a good brother writes, "We have dismissed none, tho we have some

that ought to be dismissed." That statement means a great deal more than we think. There is more than one pastor who feels just that way. There are those on the church roll who are a heavy burden on the pastor's heart, and what to do with them is a critical and difficult question. They have never yet learned what the Savior meant when he said he came not to be ministered to but to minister.

Is yours an evergreen school? If not it ought to be? Why close during the winter months? Do your children go to public schools? Then why can they not go to Sunday school? They can and they will if you keep your school open so that there is a school to which they can go. They want to go. And as for yourself, do you not have much more time during these long evenings to prepare your lessons than you have in summer? Now is the time when the very best work can be done both by teacher and scholar, and yet this is the time that is lost to you. Keep your school open the next quarter; try it and you will never want to close again.

THE ironmasters of Pennsylvania propose to erect a great monument in Pittsburg to Tubal Cain, "the first worker in iron." The *Interior* in commenting on this proposition says: The fruit-growers ought not to allow the blacksmiths to be ahead of them. They ought to set up a noble statue of Adam, the first of their craft. Detroit would be an appropriate place for it. As for the stockmen, Abel is their patron saint. The stockyards in Chicago will be apt to claim him, but we think the blueglass region of Kentucky would be more satisfactory to Abel himself. The distillers—well, let us see who would be the best ancient hero for them? Belshazzar—yes, Belshazzar is their man. He went on a spree, lost his city and his kingdom, and was so drunk that he did not know when the Midians killed him."

BEFORE Christ sent out the twelve disciples to do missionary work we read that he called them to him. This is a very important item in the narrative. Indeed the narrative would not be complete without this bit of history. He called them to him. To him they must come first before they are ready to go out to bear the message of salvation to the lost. What was true of the disciples is true of us. Before going out to do the Master's work it is very important that we should come to him, and learn of

him. No one is ready to go out to do missionary work for the Master who has not spent time at the feet of Jesus. It is all very well to go thro school and get a good collegiate education, but this alone will not suffice. Above all we need to learn in the school of Christ. We need to come to him and learn of him, the meek and lowly lamb of God; we need to come to him to get the inspiration of his life, to let him pour his sweet life of love and light and joy and peace into our lives. At the feet of Jesus is the starting place for all who would do good in the work of the Master.

IT took four men to carry the palsied man to Jesus, and it was a hard way of getting to Jesus even in that way. We suppose if it had not been for these four friends that man would never have seen Jesus, but would have died a palsied man and in his sins. It is a great work for the Christian, this work of bringing sinners to Christ. We need not go down thro the roof, nor need we carry them on beds. We can take them to Jesus in prayer and by invitation, but now as then, to succeed in the work, we must be united in our efforts. It may take four men to save one.

THE *Reformed Church Messenger* believes, and we share in the belief, "that much of the talk about the church and the working-man is pure and simple nonsense. It misrepresents both the church and the men of honest toil. The church has not lost its hold on the people, nor has the average man lost his faith in God. More people belong to the church now than at any period in its history, and a good part of these is composed of working-men and their families. The churches in the country and the average towns are mostly made up of working people. In the cities we feel safe in saying that a fair percentage of the membership of the church consists of the same class. There is a great deal of indifference with reference to religion among all classes, but there is no more of it among working-men than among other people."

THERE will be found in this issue of our paper the advertisement of *The Independent* of New York, which is known throughout the length and breadth of the land as possibly the oldest and greatest religious literary and family newspaper not only in the United States but in the world. *The Independent* in this advertisement makes an offer which will attract very wide attention and be eagerly ac-